

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 107**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Bloom**

February 21, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 107—Relative to Year of the Family Physician.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 107, as introduced, Bloom. Year of the Family Physician.

This measure would designate 2014 as the “Year of the Family Physician.”

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Family physicians are trusted members of their  
2 communities, dedicated to keeping patients as healthy as possible  
3 throughout their lives; and  
4 WHEREAS, Family physicians’ practices are a place for patients  
5 and families to turn to for care and needed advice; and  
6 WHEREAS, Family physicians integrate the biological, clinical,  
7 and behavioral sciences to provide continuing and comprehensive  
8 health care; and  
9 WHEREAS, The care provided by family physicians covers all  
10 ages, sexes, each organ system, and every disease; and family  
11 physicians pay special attention to their patients’ lives within the  
12 context of their families and their communities; and  
13 WHEREAS, Family physicians have the unique opportunity to  
14 affect the health of patients over their entire lifetimes; and  
15 WHEREAS, Family physicians can provide patients with a  
16 patient-centered medical home through which they receive a full

1 range of services within the context of a continuing relationship  
2 with their family physician and are dedicated to treating the whole  
3 person, integrating care for male and female patients of all ages  
4 within the context of the community, and advocating for the patient  
5 in an increasingly complex health care system; and

6 WHEREAS, Family physicians are geographically distributed  
7 across the country more equitably than other health care providers;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Family physicians are accessible to disadvantaged  
10 populations that lack access to quality health care, which in turn  
11 helps to reduce health disparities; and

12 WHEREAS, Individuals who regularly visit a family physician  
13 in a patient-centered medical home are more likely to receive  
14 preventive services and better management of chronic illnesses  
15 and have a decreased chance of premature death, thereby improving  
16 health outcomes and lowering costs; and

17 WHEREAS, Adults in the United States who have a family  
18 physician or another type of primary care physician have 33 percent  
19 lower health care costs and 19 percent lower odds of dying than  
20 those who see only a specialist; and

21 WHEREAS, As a nation, we would save \$67 billion each year  
22 if everyone saw a family physician or another type of primary care  
23 provider as their usual source of care; and

24 WHEREAS, Meeting the “Triple Aim” of better health, better  
25 care, and lower costs in our health care system means placing a  
26 new emphasis on primary care as provided by family physicians;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, The majority of health insurance regulations, the  
29 launch of Covered California, Medi-Cal eligibility expansion, and  
30 other significant provisions of the federal Patient Protection and  
31 Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA) are effective January 1,  
32 2014; and

33 WHEREAS, There is a tremendous value to ensuring that all  
34 patients have access to health insurance coverage and care,  
35 especially as our communities face a dire shortage of primary care  
36 physicians, including family physicians, a problem that will be  
37 exacerbated by the entrance of millions of newly insured into the  
38 health care market; and

39 WHEREAS, The implementation of the PPACA will lead to a  
40 significant demand for experienced and well-trained health care

1 professionals who can treat a wide variety of health conditions and  
2 compassionately guide patients through our complex health care  
3 system; and

4 WHEREAS, Every patient and every family deserves a family  
5 physician; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares 2014 as the “Year  
8 of the Family Physician” in recognition of the critically important  
9 role family physicians will play for patients and communities  
10 during the implementation of the federal Patient Protection and  
11 Affordable Care Act of 2010 and beyond; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
13 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.